

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL MARACAIBO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: VE, TBIO

SUBJ: SMITHSONIAN ECOLOGY PROJECT IN VENEZUELA

1. SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK (NZP) UNDERTAKING VENEZUELAN ECOLOGY STUDY AIMED AT DEVELOPMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR VENEZUELA IN COOPERATION WITH CARACAS ZOO AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PARKS. PRINCIPAL VENEZUELAN COLLABORATORS ARE DRS. PEDRO TREBBAU (CARACAS ZOO DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF ZOOLOGICAL PARKS IN THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PARKS), EDGARDO MONDOLFI, JUAN GOMEZ-NUNEZ AND ERNESTO MEDINA. STUDY WILL COMMENCE IN JANUARY 1975 WITH FUNDS ALLOCATED BY SMITHSONIAN FOR AN INITIAL 2 YEARS WITH POSSIBILITY OF SUPPORT UNTIL 1980.

2. U.S. PROJECT DIRECTOR IS DR. JOHN EISENBERG, RESIDENT SCIENTIST AT NZP WHO PLANS VISIT CARACAS ABOUT JANUARY 4, 1975, TO GET PROJECT UNDERWAY. EISENBERG TO BE ASSISTED BY DRS. DALE MARCELLINI, GERALD MONTGOMERY, AND GENE MORTON OF NZP STAFF WITH OTHER SPECIALISTS ADDED LATER.

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3. EMBASSY ADVICE URGENTLY REQUESTED REGARDING FOLLOWING:

A. NZP WILL BE BRINGING SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT TO CARACAS INCLUDING MICROSCOPES, CAMERAS, VIDEO TAPE EQUIPMENT, RADIO TELEMETRY EQUIPMENT, AND A "CAPTURE GUN" WHICH FIRES A DART WHICH INJECTS TRANQUILIZERS FOR LIVE CAPTURE OF ANIMALS. MUCH OF EQUIPMENT WILL BE SHIPPED FROM SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT PANAMA AND PROBABLY WILL BE CONSIGNED TO EISENBERG OR MONTGOMERY CARE OF CARACAS ZOO. EMBASSY PLEASE ADVISE IF ANY CUSTOMS PROBLEMS LIKELY.

B. TEAM PLANS PURCHASE TWO LAND ROVER TYPE VEHICLES, PROBABLY WITH LONG WHEELBASE, FOR USE DURING TERM OF PROJECT. SMITHSONIAN HAS DEPOSITED DOLS 14,000 IN BANK OF VENEZUELA AT MARACAY AND WILL PURCHASE VEHICLES IF LOCALLY AVAILABLE. EMBASSY PLEASE ADVISE ON GENERAL AVAILABILITY, ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION, LICENSE AND INSURANCE.

C. TEAM MEMBERS WILL GENERALLY RESTRICT FIELD VISITS TO A FEW MONTHS AT A TIME WITH SHORTER VISITS BY EISENBERG. WOULD THERE BE ANY SPECIAL TAX PROBLEMS?

4. SMITHSONIAN APOLOGISES FOR SHORT NOTICE AND LONG LIST OF EMBASSY ASSISTANCE REQUESTED. HOWEVER IT IS FELT THAT THIS PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES LONG TERM US/VENEZUELAN SCIENCE COOPERATION WITH SMITHSONIAN PERSONNEL INCLUDING LECTURING AND SIMILAR ACADEMIC PARTICIPATION AMONG THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, AND VENEZUELAN ENGAGING IN COLLABORATIVE FIELD WORK, WILL BE A WORTHWHILE EFFORT FOR ALL CONCERNED. KISSINGER

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